

engineer for the Navy, and this resulted in his becoming a contract negotiator for shipbuilding in 1956. In this position, Mr. Kearney worked on the construction and conversion of nuclear attack and ballistic missile submarines, helping navigate our nation's defense through a historic and complex transition.

His largest contribution to this country, however, was his relentless and passionate advocacy on behalf of working men and women, and his early posts in the Navy yards of Massachusetts were the origin of his life-long campaign for organized labor.

He went on to organize, and to serve as a union officer and local president of, various American Federation of Government Employees locals, lead the Philadelphia Council of the AFGE and serve as President of the Massachusetts State Council of Locals. He served as National Vice President of the AFGE, and later as Vice President Emeritus of AFGE's New England District.

Dan Kearney's faith in the electoral processes of this country, both local and national, was another passion. Beginning back when John F. Kennedy was first elected to Congress, and continuing through Senator Edward Kennedy's re-election in 1994 and my own re-election in 1996, Mr. Kearney was a welcome fixture in the Democratic campaigns of Massachusetts. For him, coordination of grass roots politics was another tool to help people improve their lives, and he gave it his all.

In later years, the issues facing senior Americans became his campaign, and his sincere advocacy of fairness and decency resulted in an appointment to the White House Council on Aging. As recently as several weeks ago, he dropped by my Boston office with thoughts on issues facing seniors, retired government employees, and the labor movement as a whole.

He leaves a loving family and many friends, and he leaves the world better for his efforts. As we celebrate his life, we offer our condolences and sympathy to all who knew and loved him.●

#### TRIBUTE TO VIRGINIA WHITE

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Virginia White, a public servant of outstanding integrity and honesty, who is retiring after 25 years of service to her community. On January 31, Virginia will end her tenure as Meridian Township Clerk.

In 1972, Virginia was first elected as Township Clerk on the promise to improve her community. Not only did she fulfill her pledge, but she began a long, meritorious career serving the people of Meridian Township. During her time as clerk, she established a reputation for hard work and dedication to serving her community. While a clerk, Virginia's dedication to Meridian Township was unsurpassed and she maintained the greatest of commitments to public service. Mr. President, Virginia

White is one of few individuals I can think of who truly embodies the ideals and principles that define the term "public servant."

Virginia's desire to better her community reached far beyond Meridian Township. When she co-founded the Michigan Association of Clerks, a network was formed which brought city and township clerks across the State of Michigan together. Additionally, in an effort to create better systems of local governance, she wrote a national manual on conducting elections. Together, these efforts reflect Virginia's longstanding pursuit to provide her municipality with the best possible clerk. I am proud to say she accomplished this goal with great distinction. Although Virginia will be greatly missed, I know she is looking forward to a well-deserved retirement. I join her family, friends, and colleagues in wishing her all the best with her new endeavors and a bright future.●

#### TRIBUTE TO RETIRED MAYOR BETTY JO RHEA

● Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to one of South Carolina's leading ladies, Betty Jo Rhea. Betty Jo retired as Mayor of Rock Hill, South Carolina on January 20. With her retirement, my state loses one of its most beloved politicians and progressive leaders.

Betty Jo Rhea began her career of public service over 25 years ago, when she was appointed to the Rock Hill Parks and Recreation Commission. She was elected to the Rock Hill City Council in 1977, and has spent the last 20 years in the thick of her city's political fray.

In 1986, Rhea became Rock Hill's first woman Mayor. When she retired in January after 12 years in the office, she also was one of the city's longest serving and most popular mayors. During her tenure, Betty Jo focused her prodigious energies on attracting jobs to the region and preventing economic collapse in the wake of the closing of the textile mills that had underpinned Rock Hill's economy.

She has been incredibly successful. Not only did she help prevent a severe recession, she led Rock Hill in an economic rejuvenation. Under her leadership, the city built three business parks to attract large industries, began a downtown revitalization and preservation program, and started a successful recycling program in cooperation with Rock Hill Clean and Green.

But Betty Jo didn't stop there. She also went abroad to promote Rock Hill, serving as the region's most successful ambassador. She was President of the Municipal Association of South Carolina, on the board of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and active in the National League of Cities.

In recognition of her achievements and dedication to her community, the Municipal Association of South Carolina awarded Rhea the Allison Farlow

Award, its highest honor. And in appreciation of her support for recycling, conservation, and greenery programs, Rock Hill Clean and Green created the Rock Hill Environmental Action (RHEA) award, named in her honor. For Rhea's contributions to the community, Winthrop University bestowed on her an honorary doctorate.

As Betty Jo's friends and admirers know, her greatest attributes are her sunny disposition, charm, and complete devotion and loyalty to Rock Hill and its people. Of course, these qualities haven't hurt her in politics, either. They have won her many friends and allies; and no doubt her success as Mayor has been aided by her habit of baking homemade bread for City Council members at Christmas.

Fortunately for South Carolina, Betty Jo Rhea's retirement from her duties as Mayor is not a retirement from public life and community service. She is set to begin her new career as head of a fund-raising campaign for the arts, and she plans to volunteer with the Salvation Army. Rhea's days of ribbon-cutting are over, but the people of Rock Hill can look forward to many more years of her wise counsel and progressive leadership.

Mr. President, I salute Betty Jo Rhea. She exemplifies all the virtues of citizenship and political leadership. She has pursued politics not out of egotism, but rather from the sincere desire to help her neighbors and strengthen her community. Thanks to her leadership, Rock Hill has not only weathered economic hardship, it has ridden the storm to ever-rising economic heights.

As one of her many fans remarked upon her retirement, Betty Jo Rhea truly was "a people's mayor."●

#### RECOGNITION OF REPRESENTATIVE BONNIE SUE COOPER

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Missouri State Representative Bonnie Sue Cooper for her outstanding contributions to the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC). As last year's Chairwoman, Bonnie Sue set a new leadership standard that will be a challenge for all future Chairpersons.

ALEC is the largest bipartisan, individual membership association of state legislators in the country. After serving as Vice-Chairwoman for two years, Bonnie Sue was voted Chairwoman for the 1997 term. According to Arkansas Speaker of the House Bobby Hogue, "In the year Bonnie Sue has been Chairman there has been progress on every front at ALEC. It has strengthened its policy making operations and raised its profile among both legislators and the private sector." Speaker Hogue replaced Bonnie Sue as Chairman.

Bonnie Sue has been an incredible leader, not only in the State of Missouri, but also at a National level. I enjoy seeing leadership of Bonnie Sue's caliber and know that there are only